

# **Portsmouth Neighborhood Plan Action Charts**

**June 26, 2002  
Resolution 36081**

## ACTION CHART 1: Portsmouth Identity

#	Proposals for Action	Time				Implementer
		Adopt With Plan	On-Going	Next 5 Yrs	6 to 20 Yrs	
	<b>PROJECTS</b>					
PI.1	Set up a program for maintaining the 'walking together' banners in the neighborhood.					PV 20/20, PCDC
PI.2	Use the images of the 'walking together' banners as a graphic way to promote neighborhood identity and awareness.					TCAP
PI.3	Continue to create and have available at neighborhood events the small refrigerator magnets of the 'walking together' banners.					TCAP, UPUMC
PI.4	Provide businesses "Proud to serve the Portsmouth neighborhood" signs to display in their windows.					TCAP
PI.5	Develop a Portsmouth neighborhood walking tour (with map and neighborhood signs) that highlight points of interest and historical facts.					TCAP, PV 20/20
PI.6	Continue to publish the Portsmouth Press and maintain efforts to translate articles into languages spoken in the neighborhood.					TCAP, PCDC, PV 20/20
PI.7	Research and publish a report on the history of the Portsmouth neighborhood.					TCAP
PI.8	Explore the use of neighborhood gateways in the locations identified on the Portsmouth urban design map on page 30.					TCAP, HAP, PV 20/20
	<b>PROGRAMS</b>					
PI.9	Support programs that bring music into parks that are easily accessible to Portsmouth residents.					TCAP, FOCP
PI.10	Ensure that the Portsmouth neighborhood has representatives on Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Areas citizen advisory committees.					TCAP
PI.11	Continue to promote communications and feedback regarding activities, initiatives, projects and opportunities that will impact the neighborhood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Portsmouth Press as a tool for communication.</li> <li>Explore using e-mail (i.e. list serve or e-mail distribution list) as a tool for communicating and gathering feedback.</li> </ul>					PCDC, HAP
PI.12	Hold at least one event per year that brings together the diverse Portsmouth population.					TCAP

Action Chart Notes. These notes apply to all action charts in the *Portsmouth Neighborhood Plan*.

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## ACTION CHART 2: Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Trails

#	Proposals for Action	Time				Implementer
		Adopt With Plan	On-Going	Next 5 Yrs	6 to 20 Yrs	
	<b>PROJECTS</b>					
P.1	Explore and request funds for possible park improvements at Columbia Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install new toddler play structure.</li> <li>• Rehabilitate the Columbia Park pool.</li> <li>• Build a new bandstand or other designated place for music.</li> <li>• Convert the wading pool to children's sprinkler area.</li> </ul>					Parks, TCAP, FOCF
P.2	Explore and request funds for possible park improvements at Northgate Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install new play structure.</li> <li>• Plant more trees.</li> <li>• Develop new soccer fields.</li> </ul>					Parks, TCAP, PV 20/20
P.3	Explore and request funds for park and open space improvements identified at Columbia Villa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop park spaces that are designed and programmed with activities that encourage broad neighborhood use.</li> <li>• Develop area above railroad tunnel (on Dana Ave) as some type of recreation space, possibly soccer fields.</li> <li>• Cluster housing units around open space in a manner that allows adults to keep an eye on children playing outside from their houses.</li> </ul>					HAP
P.4	Explore and request funds to develop new soccer fields in the open space areas around the University Park Recreation Center.					Parks, TCAP
P.5	Support the development of the University Park Recreation Center as a regional recreation center with an aquatic center.					Parks, TCAP
P.6	Explore developing a skate board park that is easily accessible to Portsmouth youth.					Portsmouth Middle Schoolers
P.7	Develop nontraditional partnerships (ex. public/private, public/nonprofit) to create and maintain neighborhood open spaces.					PCDC
P.8	Participate in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area's parks assessment project.					PDC, Parks, TCAP
P.9	Name the new trail along the south side of Columbia Blvd. ('Big Pipe' Trail) and develop the area like a linear park.					PCDC, TCAP, Kenton
P.10	Enhance the Peninsula Crossing Trail with interpretive information about wildlife.					TCAP, BES
P.11	Encourage conveniently located canoe access to the Columbia Slough.					BES, Parks
P.12	Participate in events that celebrate the completion of the trail around the Water Treatment Plant that will connect the Peninsula Crossing Trail to the 40-mile loop.					TCAP, BES
P.13	Address the safety issues at Columbia Court that create barriers for the neighborhood to access the 40-mile loop.					TCAP, PPB PDOT

## ACTION CHART 3: Public Safety

#	Proposals for Action	Time				Implementer
		Adopt With Plan	On-Going	Next 5 Yrs	6 to 20 Yrs	
	<b>PROJECTS</b>					
PS.1	Explore ways to make Columbia Park safer such as installing better lighting and foot patrols.					TCAP, FOCP
	<b>PROGRAMS</b>					
PS.2	Expand participation in the existing Neighborhood Watch, Community Foot Patrol, and Neighborhood Emergency Team programs in the Portsmouth neighborhood.					TCAP, PPB, CPO, PFB, CVTRA
PS.3	Hold neighborhood activities and events that promote greater use of the neighborhood's streets, parks, and other gathering places by area residents and visitors.					TCAP, PCDC
PS.4	Use the North Portland Public Safety Action Committee and other venues to help the neighborhood understand the available crime prevention programs and strategize how to resolve safety issues in the neighborhood.					TCAP, PSAC, CPO
PS.5	Support the continued presence of the Safety Action Team at Columbia Villa/Tamarack.					HAP, TCAP, PPB, CVTRA
PS.6	Encourage the use of the Senior Lock program to increase home security for low income seniors.					TCAP, CPO, PPB
PS.7	Empower citizens and local groups to identify problem areas and work with police and others to develop and implement safety plans that will address safety issues.					TCAP, CPO, PPB
PS.8	Train residents in mediation practices and explore establishing a satellite office of the Portland Mediation Center.					TCAP, ONI
PS.9	Support the creation of local Peace Action Zones and the work they do with residents and help implement "Community Fit for Children" peace plan.					CCNP, CVTRC
PS.10	Educate property owners, residents, and property managers on the benefits of tree pruning, better lighting, and building design for improving public safety.					TCAP, CPO

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## ACTION CHART 4: Neighborhood Livability

#	Proposals for Action	Time				Implementer
		Adopt With Plan	On-Going	Next 5 Yrs	6 to 20 Yrs	
	<b>PROJECTS</b>					
NL.1	Hold environmental activities, such as neighborhood clean-ups and tree planting events.					TCAP, BES, PCT, PCDC
NL.2	Ensure that residents have access to help and advice on how to plant the most environmentally-friendly gardens possible.					NPNS, BES
NL.3	Create a community vision and design guidelines for the eventual redevelopment of the U.S. Army Reserve property into a more vital and integrated part of the community.					TCAP
NL.4	Inventory neighborhood street trees.					PMS, PCDC, TCAP, BES
NL.5	Work with HAP to preserve or relocate as many as possible of the mature London Plane trees during the redevelopment of Columbia Villa.					TCAP
NL.6	Encourage reusing and recycling building components from Columbia Villa as it is being revitalized.					HAP
NL.7	Encourage developers to allow TCAP to have input on building and site design at the initial stages of design development.					TCAP
NL.8	When feasible, promote on-site drainage of new and existing development.					BES
	<b>PROGRAMS</b>					
NL.9	Help residents identify and abate lead-based paint.					PDC, TCAP
NL.10	When city dollars are involved, allow TCAP to have input on the design of projects in the Portsmouth neighborhood.					TCAP, PDC
NL.11	Identify and market programs available to help property owners resolve building and safety code violations.					PCDC, TCAP, PCD
NL.12	Support the use of nuisance abatement procedures and enforcement for derelict/abandoned buildings.					TCAP, OPDR
NL.13	Educate residents on their impact on stormwater and the drainage to the Columbia Slough. Promote innovative ways of detaining and treating stormwater, including eco-roofs, stormwater planters, and porous pavement.					BES
NL.14	Assist neighborhood schools with grounds maintenance and litter control.					PCT, NPNS
	<b>REGULATIONS</b>					
NL.15	Adopt the <i>Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods</i> , March 1996, as the voluntary design guidelines for development in the Portsmouth neighborhood. Add Portsmouth Sense of Place Guidelines.					TCAP, BOP

## ACTION CHART 5: Human Development

#	Proposals for Action	Time				Implementer
		Adopt With Plan	On-Going	Next 5 Yrs	6 to 20 Yrs	
	<b>PROJECTS</b>					
HD.1	Continue to update and distribute the Portsmouth Directory.					PCDC
HD.2	Locate a Latino center or multicultural center in, or near, the Portsmouth neighborhood.					PCDC, TCAP
	<b>PROGRAMS</b>					
HD.3	Continue the collaborative St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and William Temple House North Portland Social Service project to address emergency social service needs in and near the Portsmouth neighborhood.					SAEC, WTH
HD.4	Explore programs that enable adults, and other youth to mentor neighborhood youth. Ensure that multicultural mentor style service programs are available to the neighborhoods' youth.					PCDC, YO, HAP, CVTFRC
HD.5	Reopen the child development center within the current Columbia Villa/Tamarack boundaries.					CVTRA, HAP, PCDC
HD.6	Support residents working together with local service providers and schools to identify programs that will be helpful in providing services to children 6-12 years who live in this community.					CVTFRC, CSP, TCAP
HD.7	Encourage faith-based and fraternal organizations to use their facilities to house or provide programs for older children and youth in the afternoons and early evenings.					UPUMC, TCAP
HD.8	Provide resources for language development (sign, English, non-English).					CVFRC
HD.9	Support and create programs that enrich the lives of neighborhood children and youth (academic, recreational, sports, arts, and music).					CVFRC
HD.10	Expand neighborhood workforce readiness and employment by bringing new programs and approaches to HAP's existing partnerships in workforce development, education, and high-tech digital access.					HAP, PCDC
HD.11	Ensure that programs serving the needs of Portsmouth residents are available to non-English speaking residents, through such services as language translation and interpretation services whenever possible.					PCDC, HAP

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## ACTION CHART 6: Business Growth and Development

#	Proposals for Action	Time				Implementer
		Adopt With Plan	On-Going	Next 5 Yrs	6 to 20 Yrs	
	<b>PROJECTS</b>					
BG.1	Encourage residents to use local businesses in order to invest in the community.					TCAP
BG.2	Create a coordinated outreach strategy to communicate training, capital and technical assistance opportunities to local businesses.					PDC, PCDC
BG.3	Encourage Portsmouth residents and businesses to participate in the St. Johns/ Lombard planning process. This plan will develop a vision and implementation strategies for Lombard Street from Columbia Park to the St. Johns town center.					TCAP, PCDC, BOP
BG.4	Introduce a secondary grocery store to the revitalized Columbia Villa site.					HAP, Pvt.
	<b>PROGRAMS</b>					
BG.5	Identify programs that can be funded with urban renewal dollars and other city dollars to help Portsmouth businesses and support home-based businesses.					TCAP, PDC
BG.6	Promote tax and employment benefits offered by the empowerment zone designation, if approved, to both businesses and qualifying residents.					HAP, PCDC
BG.7	Inform residents how to identify and report illegal commercial activities that have adverse impacts on surrounding residential areas.					TCAP, OPDR
	<b>REGULATIONS</b>					
BG.8	Support the incorporation of the south side of Lombard from Chautauqua to the railroad cut into the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area.					TCAP
BG.9	Participate in the St. John/Lombard planning process to determine if any zoning changes along Lombard are needed. Explore the application of CS zoning along Lombard between Portsmouth and Fiske.					TCAP, BOP
BG.10	Support the zone changes needed to allow the retail and community services called for in the Hope VI plan.					HAP, BOP, TCAP

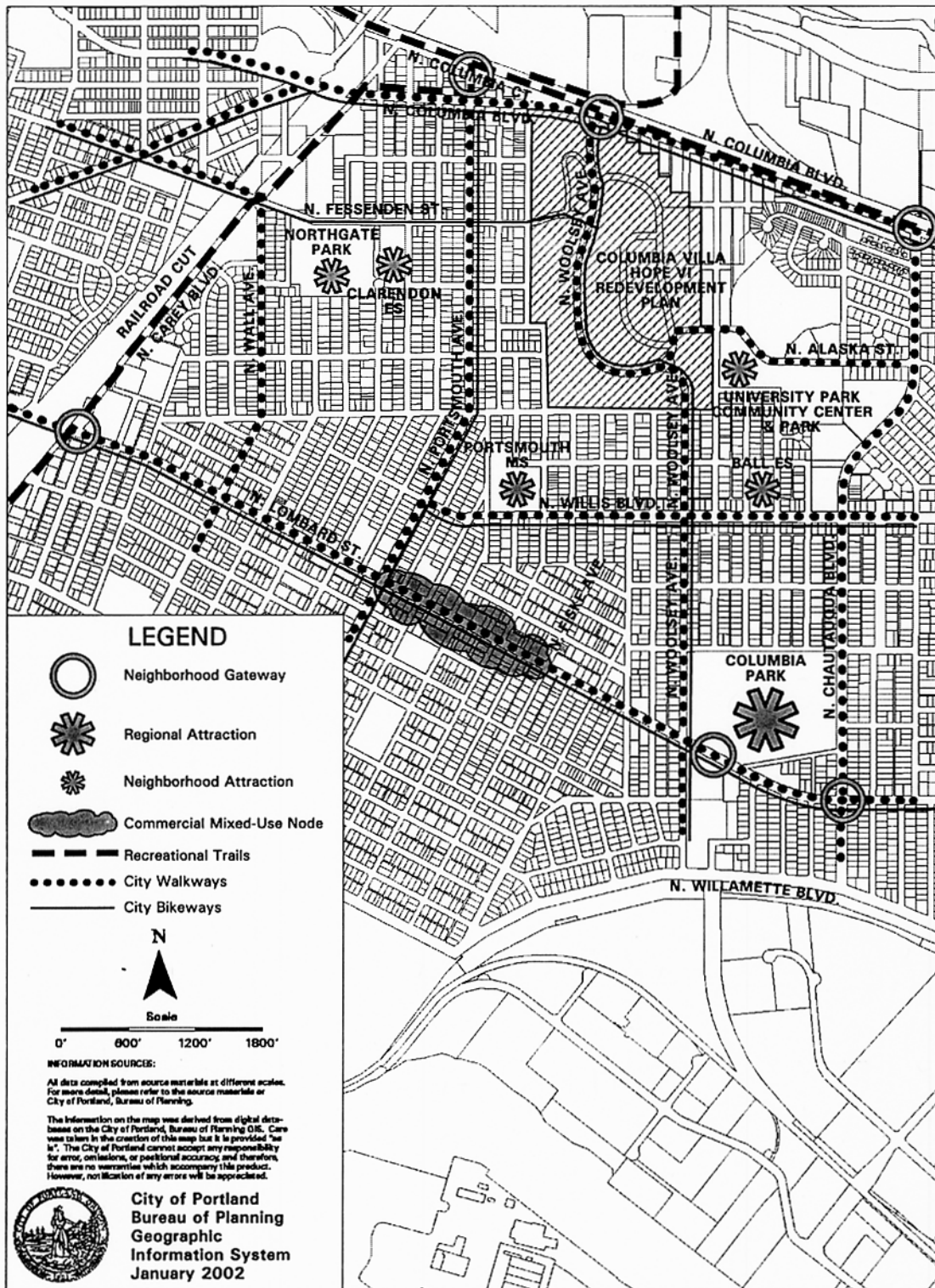
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## ACTION CHART 7: Transportation

#	Proposals for Action	Time				Implementer
		Adopt With Plan	On-Going	Next 5 Yrs	6 to 20 Yrs	
	<b>PROJECTS</b>					
T.1	Address issues along Lombard Street that include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lombard near Columbia Park where the street narrows to 2-lanes is dangerous; and</li> <li>• The pedestrian crossings on Lombard.</li> </ul>					PDOT, TCAP
T.2	Develop and complete Stop Sign Plan for local street network.					PDOT, TCAP
T.3	Reduce speeding in the neighborhood by complementing existing traffic calming approaches. Make the following identified problem areas the first priority; streets around Clarendon School, Fessenden, Woolsey, and Wall.					PDOT, TCAP
T.4	Transform the street pattern as part of the revitalization of Columbia Villa from the current circular pattern to a more traditional street grid that connects to the rest of the Portsmouth neighborhood. Address the issue of speeding through Columbia Villa when Columbia Blvd. is congested or a train is blocking through traffic.					HAP, PDOT
T.5	Develop designated city walkways and bikeways with a unified theme of improvements that could include: pedestrian-scaled lighting standards, water fountains, benches, pocket parks, street trees, wide well-maintained sidewalks, garbage cans, banners, and plaques in the sidewalk.					TCAP, PDOT
	<b>PROGRAMS</b>					
T.6	Participate in the process to identify transportation improvements that will be funded with future urban renewal dollars.					TCAP, PDC
T.7	Work with city to stripe bike lanes on designated city bikeways.					PDOT, TCAP
T.8	Explore ways to pave unpaved streets.					TCAP, PDOT
T.9	Add curb cuts to sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. Make first priority city walkways.					PDOT, TCAP
T.10	Encourage citizens to work with owners and the city to remove parked cars that do not meet the distance requirements for visibility at intersections.					PDOT, TCAP
T.11	Encourage citizens to work with owners and the city to ensure landscaping does not block visibility at intersections or along sidewalks.					PDOT, TCAP
T.12	Empower citizens to work with owners and the city to remove illegally parked and abandoned vehicles that take up on-street parking.					TCAP, PDOT, OPDR
T.13	Work with Tri-Met to improve transit services and facilities.					TCAP
	<b>REGULATIONS</b>					
T.14	Review Portsmouth's network of designated city walkways and bikeways; request revisions if necessary.					TCAP





**Map 6: Portsmouth Urban Design Map**

## Voluntary Neighborhood Design Guidelines

Neighborhoods in the city can adopt voluntary neighborhood design guidelines that describe desirable characteristics they would like to see in the design of new buildings in their neighborhood. These guidelines are advisory—which means developers are not required to meet them. Without a formal land use design review requirement, the neighborhood will not receive notice on new development in their neighborhood if it meets all the zoning and development requirements. Therefore, the neighborhood must proactively seek opportunities to work with developers. Many neighborhoods have found that voluntary design guidelines can be a valuable tool for the neighborhood to articulate desirable design concepts when working with developers.

The public review draft of the *Portsmouth Neighborhood Plan* proposed using voluntary design guidelines as a way to help the neighborhood guide future development. The comments received on the use of voluntary design guidelines were supportive, so members from the Portsmouth Neighborhood Planning Committee continued to work on this issue. Several committee members reviewed design documents used in other parts of the city to see if there were existing guidelines that could be applied to the Portsmouth neighborhood. If so, Portsmouth could avoid ‘reinventing the wheel’ and adopt existing guidelines for its neighborhood.

Committee members agreed that the document, *Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Design Guidelines for Residents and Developers*, covered issues they felt were important to the Portsmouth neighborhood. Even though Portsmouth is not located in Outer Southeast, there are similarities with the housing. Housing in the Portsmouth neighborhood—as in most Outer Southeast neighborhoods—is a mixture of styles. These styles include farmhouses, bungalows, and other houses built prior to World War II to more recent ranch-style infill housing. Most of the homes are modest in size making it important to think about scale when adding new structures nearby. There are also several streets in Outer Southeast that, like Lombard Street, the surrounding neighborhoods would like to see redevelop into more pedestrian-oriented places.

**The Portsmouth Neighborhood Plan incorporated the *Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods*, with minor revisions presented on page 38 and 39, as the voluntary neighborhood design guidelines for the Portsmouth neighborhood.**

*Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods* was developed as part of the *Outer Southeast Community Plan*. The document was prepared by Portland Community Design in cooperation with the Portland Bureau of Planning.

Copies of the document are available from the Portland Bureau of Planning. Call 503.823.7700 for more information.



## Summary of Portsmouth Voluntary Design Guidelines

In the *Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods* there are three sets of voluntary design guidelines: 1) single and attached dwellings, 2) multi-unit dwellings and 3) mixed-use and commercial buildings. Each set of design guidelines discusses and offers guidance about the following key elements that most directly effect the impact new construction has on a neighborhood.

### Streetscape

The largest public open space in any neighborhood is its network of streets and sidewalks. What is visible from the street and sidewalk shapes the character of the neighborhood. Encouraging outdoor porches, more landscaping, and minimizing parking can make the street more pleasant and safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Using low landscaping and low fences allows people to interact with their neighbors and survey activities on the street. When appropriate, plant the largest possible trees for environmental and aesthetic purposes.

**The houses below contribute to the streetscape by having low front yard fences, street-facing windows, and lots of landscaping. The fir trees of Columbia Park provide the backdrop for the houses on the right.**



### **Interest and Compatibility**

Architectural details, such as siding treatment, eaves, small paned windows, exposed-truss porches, and roof dormers, can add interest to a building. Adding architectural details that are found on surrounding buildings can make new buildings more compatible with the existing character of the neighborhood. Trees and landscaping can also add interest and help blend new development into the neighborhood. Breaking large facades into smaller areas can add interest to larger buildings. Buildings that are developed at a higher density than the surrounding area can be designed to 'step down' to the lower buildings, where appropriate.



**The houses of the Portsmouth neighborhood have a variety of architectural styles. Details of nearby buildings can be incorporated into new construction to help them blend in with the existing character of the neighborhood.**



**New Construction**

**Existing House**

**The design of the new house on the left has incorporated elements of the existing house to the right. By having a similar roof line, garage location, and porch details, the new house is compatible with the architecture of the surrounding houses.**

## **Front Entry**

Front entrances should be visible and inviting. Front entries can be accentuated through the use of architectural detail, color and landscaping. A porch is an ideal entry because it offers a transition between the public street and the private house, shelters people at the front door, and provides an outdoor room that can result in more 'eyes on the street' and better neighborhood security.



**The porch creates a visible and inviting entrance to this house. The porch also provides an 'outdoor room' that allows people the opportunity to participate in neighborhood activities.**

## **Security**

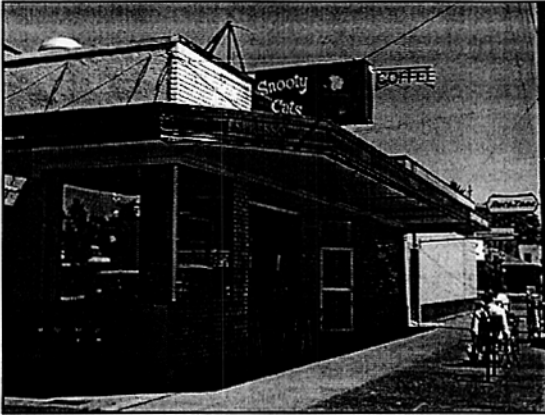
Streets where houses offer generous windows in active rooms at the front of the house allow neighbors to keep an eye on what is happening in the neighborhood. Residential units above commercial spaces add an around-the-clock presence to the street and the neighborhood. Active front yards send a clear signal to criminals to go elsewhere. Security can also be enhanced by: eliminating barriers to visibility such as high fences, hedges or protruding garages; encouraging low-level lighting throughout the neighborhood to increase nighttime security; and locating windows at the back of commercial buildings that face residential streets.

**This building with housing located above the commercial uses offers additional neighborhood security by providing the opportunity for more 'eyes on the street.'**



## **Outdoor Rooms**

'Outdoor rooms' can be created by the careful placement of buildings and parking areas that maximize the amount of usable outdoor space. This allows people to be outside more, and supports community and public safety goals. Creating 'outdoor rooms' along commercial streets can be accomplished by providing street furniture, special paving, street trees, awnings, and interesting building facades.



**This commercial building on Lombard creates an 'outdoor room' by its location close to the sidewalk, its overhanging canopy, and by providing a place for people to sit.**



**This house has a side yard that is used as an 'outdoor room.'**

## **Parking**

Garages, driveways, and parking areas should not dominate the streetscape. The location and size of garages, driveways, and parking areas have an enormous impact on the appearance of a residential building. When possible, utilize alleys for parking access to get cars off the street and behind the building. Commercial off-street parking should be located in the rear or on the side of the building, not in the front. Existing parking lots between the sidewalk and the building should be buffered with plantings, low walls, or berms.



**This house has a garage tucked behind it. This location allows a large garage without it overwhelming the view of the house from the street.**



**The entrance to the garage is located on the side of this house. This placement allows landscaping in the front of the house that is compatible with the surrounding houses.**



## **Revisions to the Outer Southeast Sense of Place Guidelines for the Portsmouth Neighborhood**

A 'sense of place' describes what is special about a neighborhood that should be protected and enhanced. In Outer Southeast the residents identified the existence of large trees, especially fir trees, as character-defining elements they wanted to protect. The following revisions to the sense of place guidelines of *Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods* reflect the unique characteristics of the Portsmouth neighborhood. These revisions will only apply to development within the Portsmouth neighborhood. The page numbers refer to the location of the guideline in the *Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods*.

**Single and Attached Dwellings** (pages 26 and 27 *Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods*)

### **Sense of Place Guideline**

***Enhance Portsmouth's unique location between two rivers high on the Peninsula bluff by preserving surrounding views to natural areas.***

### **Sense of Place Description**

Aligned between two rivers, Portsmouth was once filled with groves of tall fir trees. Few of the original trees remain in the neighborhood. Of those trees left, many are located in Columbia Park at the east entrance of the neighborhood. These trees are reminders of the booming timber industry of the past that was once the economic back bone of the Peninsula.

Though the scenery has changed, Portsmouth's location, high on the Peninsula bluff, provides residents a special sense of place. From the northern boundary, views of the Columbia River, Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Adams can be seen. From southeastern locations in the neighborhood, the grand old firs of Columbia Park are in sight, offering sanctuary to all inhabitants. As the neighborhood continues to grow and change, trees and natural areas should be preserved and enhanced whenever possible.



**The mature trees of Columbia Villa are a neighborhood asset. As Columbia Villa is redeveloped, steps should be taken to preserve as many of these trees as possible.**



## **Multidwelling**

(pages 42 and 43 of *Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods*)

### **Sense of Place Guideline**

**(No change)**

### **Sense of Place Description**

Remove the reference in the first paragraph to 'butte, creek, pond.'

## **Mixed-Use and Commercial**

(pages 58 and 59 *Building Blocks for Outer Southeast Neighborhoods*)

### **Sense of Place Guideline**

***Incorporate local history and Portsmouth's natural features.***

### **Sense of Place Description**

**(No change)**



**This is one of the original houses of the Portsmouth neighborhood. This Victorian house was built about the same time that the steam engine connected Portsmouth with downtown Portland.**